

St. Michael Parish Pastoral Council  
October 14, 2019 minutes

Members present: Fr. Marty, Deacon Ron, Lee Ann Egan, Linda Kinzer, Tom Molnar, Kathy Lakatos, Cindy Morley, Jim Prasopoulos, Dan Price, Devin Sanders, Lynn Schmitt, Jack Velazquez, John Zaborske

Additional guest present: Conchita Bryner

Fr. Marty began the meeting by reading from a saint often featured at parish council meetings, namely St. Flugentius, who wrote a treatise against Fabianus which discussed the sharing of Christ's body and blood. An opening prayer and welcome to new council members followed. All present thanked Dan for the work he did in preparing binders for each council member. The binders contain agendas, contact information, the council's charter and the parish's strategic plan, among other documents, and will be useful tools for the 2019-2020 council year.

Dan then led a review of several action items, including at least two for each commission. One action item for each commission is to review its specific charter with commission members. Others were specific to each commission. For example, the Parish Life Commission is working on this year's Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration which traditionally occurs on December 12. Deacon Ron discussed the Peace and Social Justice Commission's efforts in Haiti and is hopeful to visit the island nation this winter now that travel restrictions have been eased. If Deacon Ron and other parishioners are unable to go, the parish can ship items to Haiti instead. The Education and Formation Commission removed an action item which asked that all 5th graders be informed about becoming altar servers since this is already being done. The Stewardship Commission extended invites to males of the parish to join them. Finally, the Spirituality and Worship Commission is working to update dates in its charter, namely the scheduling of a liturgical day of renewal for the first Saturday of Lent, which falls on February 29, 2020. Dan also reviewed term limits for each current council member and is pleased that the council has four people to replace in 2020, 2021 and 2022 since it has been a longtime goal to rotate out four people and rotate in four people each year. To that end, Fr. Marty distributed a discernment timeline approved during the 2018-2019 council year and asked that current council members work with ministry heads to create a list of 90 names who might be suitable candidates for discernment in March 2020.

A major effort of the council and particularly the Stewardship Commission in recent months has been the Stewardship Through Ministry month which culminated at the parish feast day celebration held September 28-

29. Lynn reported that the month yielded 70 new signups and 232 renewals spread out over all five commissions. Ministry leaders are currently contacting new signups. Devin and Jack were among the council members who liked the new format, and they joined many others who gave positive feedback on the ministry fair. Fr. Marty suggested that people learn the difference between a ministry and an activity since all ministries are activities but not all activities are ministries. He also appreciated those ministry members who gave short and effective testimonials during their commission's featured week. Lynn and other Stewardship Commission members are already planning the 2020 event and hope to have their work done by May or June. They hope to have new signup cards next year and make quicker callbacks to new signups.

Dan noted that the Stewardship Through Ministry month was the result of several parishioners attending a national stewardship conference last year, and Stewardship Commission member Conchita Bryner visited the meeting to update the council on this year's event. She attended the convention with school principal Colleen Kennedy and communications director Steven Koontz and purchased recordings of every convention session which she will share with commission liaisons and ministry leaders. Conchita and her team are working to create an 18-

36 month stewardship plan, and their next goal is to focus on stewardship through prayer and then move into stewardship through treasure. Conchita suggested that communications to parishioners will be vital to this process and suggested that Fr. Marty call each registered parishioner and leave a message perhaps three times a year--

at Easter, in the summer and at Christmas. Fr. Marty would be open to such messages but cautioned that the parish phone list would need to be scrubbed first so that the messages go to registered parishioners

and be more effective. Council members thanked Conchita for her report and were grateful for the work she and other Stewardship Commission members have done.

Council members felt the parish feast day celebration went well and in particular thanked Jack for bringing a photo booth. Some noticed congestion in the gathering space for a variety of reasons, and Fr. Marty suggested that in the future the gathering space might be used only for ministry and commission signups during the month leading to the feast day. It was suggested that the Prayer of St. Michael be said at the beginning and end of the month and that the new signup cards may include a space for people to make a financial pledge if they are unable to join a ministry. Fr. Marty is hoping to see an increase in weekly collections after the current capital campaign formally concludes in May 2020.

The Stewardship Commission has been in the spotlight for the past month, but other commissions are also at work. Linda reported that the Education and Formation Commission will have a mini-retreat on November 15-16.

Tom said the Parish Life Commission will meet in October. Lee Ann attended a recent meeting of the Spirituality and Worship Commission which is planning special liturgies for All Saints and All Souls in November and the Advent and Christmas seasons which follow shortly thereafter.

Finally, the council revisited an earlier discussion of the creation of an Order of St. Michael Award which would be presented to parishioners who demonstrate outstanding service through ministry to the parish. Cynthia is concerned that some people might be offended if they don't receive this honor, while Jim thought it was a good idea to recognize parishioners who go above and beyond and have done so for years. Fr. Marty asked council members to pray about it and come to a consensus at a future meeting. Deacon Ron closed the meeting by leading the council in a closing prayer and the Our Father. The council will next meet on November 4 at 7 p.m. in one of the small meeting rooms of St. Patrick's Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Cox